



*Water management in Ontario*

# Ontario Water Resources Commission

*What it is and what it does*

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## OUR JOB IS WATER MANAGEMENT

In the years since the last war both population and industry have grown in Ontario at a startlingly swift rate.

From four million people in 1946 we now have seven million. In 1946 Ontario industry earned \$3.7 billion. Currently the Province's mills and factories are turning out products at a rate of \$19.3 billion worth each year—more than a five-fold increase.

As industry and population grow, so, relentlessly, grow problems of water supply and pollution. Our pioneer forefathers used three to four gallons of water a day for drinking, washing and cooking. Today, because of automatic washing machines, air conditioners, lawn watering and industry's great thirst, use throughout the Province averages 100 gallons a day per citizen. In major cities water use can run as high as 175 gallons per citizen-day.

This vastly increased rate of useage has put considerable strain on many municipal water supply and waste disposal systems. This was inevitable since water in the larger sense is a fixed quantity. There is no more water in the hydrological cycle now than there was when the world began. Our more intense use means that we must now push water through our treatment systems more quickly and more efficiently.

Recognizing the need for a single body which would be responsible for water management in Ontario the Legislature in 1956 established the Ontario Water Resources Commission. It's mission: efficient water supply and waste disposal throughout the Province. This means assisting citizens in municipalities everywhere in Ontario to supply themselves with *enough* water of *high enough quality* for all their needs.

It also means protecting existing water sources from all types of pollution—municipal, industrial or otherwise.

The OWRC does this by arranging financing, and by providing engineering and technical assistance, licenses for water use, information and, in some cases, arbitration.

The OWRC's job is water management in Ontario.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

The OWRC is divided into the following divisions and branches, each of which is set up to provide guidance, assistance and advice of all sorts to mayors, councillors, officials and private citizens.

**Division of Project Development** — plans and arranges the financing of sewage and water works projects, including pipelines, and acquires property for such projects. In addition, the Division administers sewage treatment and water supply regional studies which are undertaken by consulting engineers retained by the Commission.

*Director—P. G. Cockburn*

**Division of Construction** — builds water and sewage facilities for cities, towns and villages throughout the Province. Staff from this Division will work with local officials in preparing plans and specifications, will brief consulting engineers, help put projects out to tender, check tenders, keep watch on projects, check and approve progress payments.

*Director—A. W. Shattuck*

**Division of Plant Operations** — operates and maintains all water and sewage works built by the Commission. It employs local plant personnel who report to regional engineers supervised from Division headquarters in Toronto.

*Director—D. A. McTavish*

**Division of Water Resources** — assesses, develops and controls surface and groundwater resources in the Province. This includes arbitrating claims of interference with streamflow or groundwater tables, licensing well contractors and surveying and tabulating water resources for the benefit of all users.

*Director—K. E. Symons*

**Division of Sanitary Engineering** — approves all plans for public water and sewage installations and extensions. It is responsible for pollution control and maintenance of water quality standards throughout the Province. It also helps municipalities assess their need for new or enlarged sewage and water works. It regularly inspects all sewage and water works, including those operated by the Commission, supervises educational courses for sewage and waterworks operators and administers plumbing regulations.

*Director—J. R. Barr*

**Division of Industrial Wastes** — keeps constant watch on potential sources of industrial pollution, administers provincial laws controlling pollution of sewers and waterways by industry. The Division helps municipalities work out agreements with industry regarding water use and waste discharge into sewers and works closely with industry to help solve difficult waste disposal problems.

*Director—D. P. Caplice*

**Division of Research** — does applied research on a great many aspects of water quality. It undertakes field and laboratory tests to analyze biological and chemical hazards to Ontario's water supplies, and develops means of dealing with these hazards, working closely with other divisions of the Commission. It continually reviews literature and keeps informed of general engineering and scientific progress.

*Director—A. J. Harris*

**Division of Laboratories** — analyzes samples of water, sewage and industrial wastes submitted by Commission staff and other government agencies. Laboratories are extensive, well staffed, and equipped to carry out highly



sophisticated functions. Teams of scientists include bacteriologists, physiologists, botanists and chemists. In addition to its analysis work the Division concerns itself with the effects of wastes on fish and wildlife, as part of the OWRC's water management program.

*Director—J. H. Neil*

**Division of Finance** — is concerned with the financial affairs of the Commission, including formulation of accounting policy and preparation of financial statements. It is responsible for custody of Commission funds and for the collection of payments due from municipalities.

*Director—E. F. Heath*

**Division of Administrative Services** — deals with the Commission's systems and procedures (including electronic data processing) as well as the Commission's files, including a microfilm system. It also acquires, stores and distributes goods and materials required for performance of the Commission's programs.

*Director—L. M. Tobias*

**Public Relations and Information** — plans and co-ordinates the Commission's overall internal and external public relations, information, education and communications activities. News media liaison and editorial services, exhibits, pamphlets, photographs, films and slides, student educational materials, supportive advertising are all used in a continuing program designed to create an awareness of and public interest in Ontario's water management program.

*Director—M. F. Cheetham*

**Personnel Branch** — supervises and co-ordinates the Commission's program of personnel administration. The recruiting of staff both for Head Office and Plant Operations forms an important part of its function. Personnel programs including pay research, medical surgical health plan, retirement and superannuation are administered. Assistance is given with the development and training of personnel and a program of financial assistance is co-ordinated.

*Director—A. R. W. Uren*

**Legal Branch** — provides the legal services of the Commission including the supervising of legal actions conducted on behalf of the Commission, the drafting of amendments to the OWRC Act, the preparation of agreements with municipalities, consulting engineers and contractors and advising on legal questions that arise concerning the Commission's work.

*Senior Solicitor—J. P. Erichsen-Brown*

**Office Services Branch** — provides library facilities for the use of Commission staff, a Print Shop which handles the printing and duplicating of OWRC's materials and a Mechanical Services section which provides mechanical, electrical, and other stationary maintenance functions for the Commission.

## Is one of these your question?

*...if so we would be glad to send you complete information about how the OWRC can help you—*

How to obtain your new water/sewage works project —booklet No. 2

How to work with industry on pollution problems —booklet No. 3

What the citizens can do about water pollution —booklet No. 4

What we are doing about water pollution in Ontario —booklet No. 5

What to do about weeds in your lake —booklet No. 6

How to keep your stream from going dry —booklet No. 7

What you should know about OWRC plumbing regulations —booklet No. 8

What you should know about water wells —booklet No. 9

*Enquiries:*

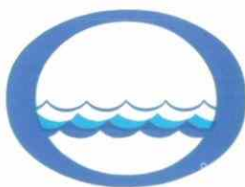
**Ontario Water Resources Commission**

Public Relations and Information

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